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Advancement of women

Bangladesh and the Philippines: draft resolution

Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling all previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers adopted by the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[1]

Reaffirming the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights[2] and its five-year review, the International Conference on Population and Development[3] and its five-year review, and the Fourth World Conference on Women,[4] specifically as the results pertain to migrant women, particularly women migrant workers,

Emphasizing the need for objective, comprehensive, broad-based information and a wide exchange of experiences and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of policies and concrete strategies to address the problem of violence against women migrant workers,

Welcoming the recommendations of the Working Group of Intergovernmental Experts on the Human Rights of Migrants of the Commission on Human Rights,

Noting the large numbers of women from developing countries and some countries with economies in transition who continue to venture forth to more affluent countries in search of a living for themselves and their families as a consequence of poverty,

[1] Resolution 48/104, annex.

[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

99-29993 (E) 181099

unemployment and other socio-economic conditions, and acknowledging the duty of States to work for conditions that provide employment and security to their citizens,

Realizing that the movement of a significant number of women migrant workers is often facilitated and made possible through fraudulent documentation and arranged marriages, and that by the nature of their status and movement, women migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, from the country of origin to the country of destination,

Acknowledging the economic benefits that accrue to both the country of origin and the country of destination from the employment of women migrant workers,

Recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches at the bilateral, regional, interregional and international levels in protecting and promoting the rights and welfare of women migrant workers,

Encouraged by some measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing within their areas and recognizing the role of civil society in this regard,

Underlining the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and relevant special procedures, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers, and in protecting and promoting their rights and welfare,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers;[5]

2. *Also welcomes* the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants;

3. *Urges* Member States, particularly the countries of origin and destination, to give serious consideration to inviting the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries and to cooperate fully with him, including by furnishing all information requested and reacting promptly to his urgent appeals;

4. *Urges* concerned Governments, particularly the countries of origin and destination, to further strengthen their national efforts to protect and promote the rights and welfare of women migrant workers, including through sustained bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation, by developing strategies and joint action and taking into account the innovative approaches and experiences of individual Member States;

5. *Encourages* Member States to adopt measures and provide services for women migrant workers so that they will be provided with information on their rights and the benefits they are entitled to, as well as legal services and alternatives to address their situation of vulnerability, both in the country of origin and country of destination;

6. *Further urges* concerned Governments, particularly those of the countries of origin and destination, to support and allocate appropriate resources for programmes aimed at strengthening preventive action, in particular information for relevant target groups, education and campaigns to increase public awareness of this issue at the national and grass-roots levels, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations;

7. *Calls upon* concerned Governments, particularly those of the countries of origin and destination, in cooperation with concerned international agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, to formulate and implement training and

[5] A/54/342.

developmental programmes for their law enforcers, prosecutors and service providers with a view to instilling among these public sector workers the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper and professional interventions for women migrant workers who are victims of abuse and violence;

8. *Also calls upon* concerned Governments, particularly those of the countries of origin and destination, if they have not done so, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers, and to the extent possible to provide victims of violence with the full range of immediate assistance and protection, such as counselling, legal and consular assistance, temporary shelters and other measures, that will allow them to be present during the judicial process, as well as to establish reintegration and rehabilitation schemes for returning women migrant workers to their country of origin;

9. *Further calls upon* concerned Governments, particularly those of the countries of origin and destination, to adopt measures or strengthen existing ones to regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, including considering the adoption of appropriate legal measures against intermediaries who deliberately encourage the clandestine movement of workers and who exploit women migrant workers;

10. *Calls upon* Governments to ensure that their immigration and labour laws and policies do not force women migrant workers to work in the informal sector of countries of destination under exploitative and abusive conditions;

11. *Encourages* concerned Governments, particularly those of the countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the United Nations Statistics Division and other relevant bodies, such as the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, to develop appropriate national data-collection methodologies that will generate comparable data on violence against women migrant workers as bases for research and analyses on the subject;

12. *Urges* Member States to consider ratifying and complying with International Labour Organization conventions, and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[6] as well as the Slavery Convention of 1926;[7]

13. *Requests* the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to elaborate a general recommendation on the situation of women migrant workers;

14. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on human rights of migrants to review existing research on the problem of violence against women migrant workers, including those who migrate through betrothal, marriage or "mail order" arrangements, with a view to integrating and correlating data to establish patterns and trends, and to recommend concrete strategies to address the problem;

15. *Encourages* the participation of the civil society in developing and implementing appropriate measures to support innovative partnerships among public agencies, non-governmental organizations and other members of the civil society for combating violence against women migrant workers;

16. *Urges* concerned Governments to establish and maintain continuing dialogues to facilitate information exchanges;

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[6] Resolution 45/158, annex.

[7] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 212, No. 2861.

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the problem of violence against women migrant workers, taking into account updated information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the International Organization for Migration and other relevant sources, including non-governmental organizations, as well as on the implementation of the present resolution.